

certification programs to attract highly qualified people from other occupations to the teaching profession, to decrease the shortage of highly qualified teachers in high need areas, or to develop programs which reward excellent teachers and remove unqualified teachers.

Partnerships will compete for 45 percent of the funds as well, while 10 percent of the funds is reserved for recruitment grants.

This reauthorization was also guided by a strong desire to promote college cost-cutting measures, utilizing some of the recommendations of the Commission on the Cost of Higher Education which presented its findings earlier this year. This legislation includes initiatives to ensure that parents and students are kept apprised of college costs and provide with comparative data to keep colleges accountable and higher education affordable; burdensome federal regulations are reduced; and the national role in encouraging affordable higher education is strengthened.

This bill also streamlines and consolidates the many programs and activities which are found in the Higher Education Act. This act has become increasingly complex over the years and these amendments make great strides in simplifying the act and better targeting its programs and activities.

It has been a pleasure to be part of the development of this critical legislation. I have found the bipartisanship displayed throughout this process encouraging and I would like to thank the staff who have worked on this important legislation for the last two years: on Senator JEFFORD's staff, Susan Hattan, Jenny Smulson, Scott Giles, Cory Heyman, and Pam Moran have done excellent work on this bill. In addition, Marianna Pierce with Senator KENNEDY and Suzanne Day with Senator DODD have worked diligently to ensure that this bill represents a strong bipartisan consensus. Thank you all so much for your long hours and excellent work.

Again, I am pleased to have been a part of crafting this important legislation.

STUDY OF MARKET MECHANISMS IN FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS

Mr. DOMENICI. I would like to call attention to a study of market mechanisms in federal student loan programs, Section 801 of the conference report. I was pleased to see this issue addressed in the context of the Higher Education Act. As you know, Chairman JEFFORDS, our fiscal year 1999 Senate budget resolution raised concerns about the federal government setting interest rates for student loans and encouraged your Committee to look for a long term solution to the difficult problem of Congress setting these rates. I believe this study is a good first step and hopefully will give a good data on which to access where we go after the newly adopted student and lender rates sunset in 2003.

One matter I wish to clarify with the Chairman is the participation of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in this study. CBO is a critical non-partisan analytical body on which we in Congress rely. By law they can not recommend specific policies or endorse the policy recommendations of others. I would assume then that the purpose for which you seek CBO's participation in the study for their expertise on student loans, and in general, study design and analysis.

Mr. JEFFORDS. It is my understanding that the Budget Committee has asked CBO to conduct a broader-based study on student loan interest rates, subsidies, and the larger student aid program. I expect that study to be a valuable as well, and it is my view that the knowledge gained through this work could be of great benefit to the Department of Education and the Comptroller General as they undertake their own study. The role of CBO in the study contained in the conference agreement is to assist the other participants ask the right kinds of questions, use valid research and analytical tools, analyze the validity of the study's design or conclusions, where objective analysis can be brought to bear, and be an overall, non-partisan, resource for participants in the study.

Mr. DOMENICI. I appreciate the Chairman's clarification. The study language makes reference to additional or dissenting views. Is it the intent of the Committee that all members of the study group, including CBO, shall have the opportunity to express independent concurring or dissenting views within the context of the preliminary as well as final report to Congress.

Mr. JEFFORDS. That is correct.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Chairman.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, in closing, I am extremely pleased that the Senate with this vote, will have completed action on the conference report accompanying H.R. 6, the Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

The scope of the Higher Education Act is so broad that the reauthorization of all the programs it covers is necessarily a demanding and time-consuming task. Bringing this process to a conclusion would not have been possible without the concerted efforts of members of both parties in both the House and the Senate.

I express my particular gratitude to the members of the Labor and Human Resources Committee and their staffs, who have pulled together over the past 18 months to help shape a bill which will help ensure that our nation remains a leader in educational excellence for all of our citizens.

Each and every member of the committee made a positive contribution to the development and refinement of this measure. I very much value the time, effort, and commitment they have brought to this task.

I also extend my sincerest thanks to the many staff people who contributed to this product.

I particularly recognize the efforts of Marianna Pierce and Jane Oates with Senator KENNEDY, Townsend Lange with Senator COATS, and Suzanne Day and Megan Murray with Senator DODD. These individuals—along with my own staff members, Scott Giles, Susan Hattan, Cory Heyman, Pamela Moran, and Jenny Smulson—went “above and beyond” in terms of their diligent work on each and every aspect of this measure. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Heidi Scheuerman, Carolyn Dupree, and Leah Booth of my staff—who brought a semblance of control to the vast quantities of paper produced throughout this process.

I also recognize and thank the staff of other members of the committee—all of whom have shown great dedication to this cause:

Jackie Cooney with Senator GREGG;
Lori Meyer with Senator FRIST;
John Connelly with Senator DEWINE;
Chad Calvert with Senator ENZI;
Jenny Saunders and Rhett Butler with Senator HUTCHINSON;
Julian Haynes with Senator COLLINS;
Angie Stewart and Chas Phillips with Senator WARNER;
Robin Bowen and Holly Hacker with Senator MCCONNELL;
Bev Schroeder with Senator HARKIN;
Deborah Connelly with Senator MIKULSKI;
Alexander Russo and Rena Subotnik with Senator BINGAMAN;
Roger Wolfson and Robin Burkhe with Senator WELLSTONE;
Mike Egan with Senator MURRAY;
and

Elyse Wasch with Senator REED.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary assistance offered by Debb Kalcevic, Robin Seiler, Josh O'Hara, and Justin Latus with the Congressional Budget Office, Mark Sigurski with Senate Legislative Counsel, and Margot Schenet, Jim Stedman, and Barbara Miles, with the Congressional Research Service.

This process has been a collaborative and bipartisan one every step of the way. It has produced a measure of which we can all be proud.

Mr. President, I have no other requests for time. I yield back the remainder of my time.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4103, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4103), have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House Proceedings of the RECORD of September 25, 1998.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time for debate on this conference report is limited to 10 minutes equally divided.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the Senator from Arkansas wants 2 minutes. Please inform when I have used 3 minutes.

It is my privilege to present to the Senate this fiscal year 1999 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. I am especially pleased to present the bill with the full bipartisan support of the conferees on the bill and in partnership with my good friend, the distinguished Senator from Hawaii, Senator INOUE.

Unlike the previous 3 years, the bill before the Senate matches the budget request levels sought by the President for 1999. Pursuant to the bipartisan budget agreement reached last year, we live within the budget authority and outlay limits on defense spending.

It is my judgment, though, that the levels set last year do not adequately fund readiness, quality of life, modernization, and the needs of our Armed Forces. I will be speaking more on that today.

The conference report before the Senate places a clear premium on meeting the personnel and readiness needs of the military. The bill provides the 3.6-percent pay increase for all uniformed personnel. The bill also increases funding for urgent operation and maintenance requirements for the military services.

The conferees on the bill also worked to address the top modernization priorities established by the service chiefs. The conferees did not solve funding challenges presented by the budget caps by taking large general reductions to procurement and research accounts.

Tough decisions were made on each program. Very few programs, Mr. President, were funded at the full House or Senate level. Where there was a difference, we sought to find a compromise between the House and Senate spending accounts.

One very important provision of the bill was offered in the Senate by Senator ROBERTS. That is on the prospect of deploying U.S. troops to Kosovo. Following consultations with Secretary Cohen and the Joint Chiefs Chairman General Shelton, the conferees modified the provision to focus attention on any additional deployment of U.S. troops to Yugoslavia—which does include Kosovo—Albania and Macedonia.

This reporting requirement, related to the introduction of ground troop units, does not apply forces introduced in accordance with U.N. Security Council 795 or other circumstances determined by the President to be an emergency necessitating the immediate deployment of forces.

In addition, the conferees added language making clear nothing in this section shall be deemed to restrict the au-

thority of the President under the Constitution to protect the lives of U.S. citizens.

I again commend Senator ROBERTS for this initiative and believe the modifications included in the bill are consistent with past requirements enacted concerning the deployment of U.S. forces in this region. It will be very important in connection with any potential deployment to Kosovo.

As I noted earlier, there is not enough money for defense in this bill, Mr. President. We recently received a letter from the President identifying the need for additional funds for 1999. The Armed Services Committee today is hearing testimony on this issue from the service chiefs.

It is my intention to recommend to the Senate that additional funds be provided in the emergency supplemental bill for readiness, counterterrorism, the war on drugs, and intelligence needs.

Our committee will work with the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs to ensure we meet the needs they present to Congress.

Mr. President, let me close by recognizing the excellent work undertaken by our colleagues in the House, Chairman BILL YOUNG and Representative JACK MURTHA.

The four of us have been handling these defense bills for several years now, and it is truly a pleasure to work with them each year on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's 3 minutes have expired.

Mr. HUTCHINSON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Thank you.

I thank the chairman for the outstanding work he has done on this bill. I will support the legislation. I think it is a commitment to our Nation's defense. The Senator from Alaska always does a good job on all the appropriations bills, but particularly this defense appropriations bill.

I am glad for several projects that I think are critical to our Nation's defense but are also critical to the State of Arkansas, including the MLRS system, manufactured in Camden, AR, Fort Chaffee in Ft. Smith, AR, the Pine Bluff Arsenal, and C-130s in Jacksonville.

I will vote for the bill. I do so with a deep reservation. I am puzzled, discouraged and disheartened by the exclusion of an amendment that passed unanimously in the Senate by a vote of 99-0—it passed the House of Representatives on separate votes of 415-1 and 366-54—which would have condemned China's policy of forced abortions and religious persecution and would have denied visas to the perpetrators.

I am just puzzled, and I am discouraged that an amendment that had such bipartisan support, that has no cost and no controversy, would have been dropped in conference.

Yesterday, President Jiang Zemin in China, according to the Washington

Post today, issued a strident defense of the Tiananmen massacre in which hundreds—thousands of students were slain. At the very time that the President of China is defending that horrendous action, this body cannot lift even a timid voice in condemnation of it—even a mild rebuke of those abuses. I am appalled and I find it inexplicable that we remain silent and that the conference would have determined to drop this amendment that had such support in both bodies.

So while I vote for this conference report, I do so with a deep reservation and with the caveat that this Senator will use his breath, so long as he has the opportunity in the Senate, to continue to raise the issues of human rights abuses in China and to offer these kinds of amendments.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All the time of the Senator from Alaska has been used.

The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise to speak in strong support of this conference agreement. Chairman STEVENS has once again done an extraordinary job in moving this bill forward while protecting the interests of the Senate, and supporting our Nation's defense.

Quite often when we talk about defense we highlight the investment items such as tanks and missiles and ships and fighting aircraft. Mr. President, while these are all important, and in fact critical to ensuring a strong defense, whenever you meet commanders in the field, each one will tell you that the most important element of our defense is the men and women who are willing to serve us.

There are 1,396,000 men and women in the Active Forces and another 877,000 in our National Guard and Reserve. This represents less than 1 percent of our population. And they are the ones who are willing to sacrifice everything to stand in harm's way to defend all the rest of us.

Mr. President, we should be very grateful for their willingness to serve and, most important, we should demonstrate our gratitude by ensuring that they receive adequate compensation, good housing and quality medical care.

In this bill, we have made some progress on each of these fronts.

First, the bill provides for a 3.6 percent pay raise, one-half percent higher than requested by the administration.

Second, the conferees have added \$505 million to cover real property maintenance needs for barracks and housing for our military personnel and their families.

Third, the bill has added \$500 million for supporting our bases to make sure that there is enough money to adequately operate the bases.

Finally, we have fully funded the Defense Health Program.

Mr. President, many of us have a real concern that our military no longer believes that we are doing enough to respond to their needs.

Last May, our chairman led a delegation to the Persian Gulf. It was very clear from the men and women with whom we spoke that there is growing dissatisfaction in our military with their working and living conditions, and pay.

We have tried to address these within the funding constraints that we face, but we believe more needs to be done.

We know we do not have all the answers on the best approach to fix this problem.

Therefore, the conferees have directed the Defense Department to review all aspects of its compensation package, from recruiting incentives to retirement, including all quality of life programs.

It is the intent of the managers that the Defense Department conduct this review in the next 3 months and provide the Congress with its recommendations in conjunction with its budget submission for fiscal year 2000.

Mr. President, this is a good package. The bill provides more money in title II for operation and maintenance than was requested by the President. It does a great deal to help our men and women in uniform, not as much as we would like, but more than DOD requested.

Considering the tough financial climate that we are living in, I must commend our chairman for forging this agreement and thank his staff too for their great assistance.

Mr. President, this is a good package, I recommend it to all of my colleagues.

Mr. President, I understand there is some concern regarding section 8115 in this conference report. It was my understanding that the provision regarded the deployment of additional ground troops to Yugoslavia, Albania, and Macedonia. We hope that those responsible for interpreting this legislation will understand this when they respond to this provision.

Mr. President, before I close, may I add my commendation to the extraordinary work of our staff, led by Steve Cortese and Charlie Houy.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I join Senator INOUE in commending our staff and all those who worked on this bill, and particularly Senator ROBERTS, for his very significant amendment to this bill.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I strongly support H.R. 4103, the Defense appropriations conference report for fiscal year 1999. The pending provides \$250.5 billion in total budget authority and \$168.1 billion in new outlays for the Department of Defense and related activities. When outlays from prior years and other adjustments are taken into account, outlays total \$245.1 billion.

There are some major elements to this bill that are important for the Senate to review.

The bill is consistent with the bipartisan balanced budget agreement.

It funds a 3.6 percent pay raise for military personnel, rather than the 3.1 percent requested by the administration.

It contains quality-of-life enhancements for our Armed Forces, which total \$455 million more than was requested.

I strongly support this bill, and I urge its adoption. I want to complement the chairman of the Appropriations Committee on his very skillful handling of this important legislation and for his statesmanlike approach to some serious and troubling issues in this year's defense budget.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Senate Budget Committee table displaying the budget impact of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

H.R. 4103, DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS, 1999, SPENDING COMPARISONS—CONFERENCE REPORT

(Fiscal year 1999, in millions of dollars)

	Defense	Non-defense	Crime	Mandatory	Total
Conference Report:					
Budget authority	250,282	27	.....	202	250,511
Outlays	244,876	27	.....	202	245,105
Senate 302(b) allocation:					
Budget authority	250,324	27	.....	202	250,553
Outlays	244,877	27	.....	202	245,106
1998 level:					
Budget authority	247,340	27	.....	197	247,564
Outlays	247,130	31	.....	197	247,358
President's request:					
Budget authority	250,770	27	.....	202	250,999
Outlays	246,493	27	.....	202	246,722
House-passed bill:					
Budget authority	250,499	27	.....	202	250,728
Outlays	245,408	27	.....	202	245,637
Senate-passed bill:					
Budget authority	250,290	27	.....	202	250,519
Outlays	244,938	27	.....	202	245,167
Conference Report Compared To:					
Senate 302(b) allocation:					
Budget authority	-42	.....	.....	.....	-42
Outlays	-1	.....	.....	.....	-1
1998 level:					
Budget authority	2,942	.....	.....	5	2,947
Outlays	-2,254	-4	.....	5	-2,253
President's request:					
Budget authority	-488	.....	.....	.....	-488
Outlays	-1,617	.....	.....	.....	-1,617
House-passed bill:					
Budget authority	-217	.....	.....	.....	-217
Outlays	-532	.....	.....	.....	-532
Senate-passed bill:					
Budget authority	-8	.....	.....	.....	-8
Outlays	-62	.....	.....	.....	-62

Note: Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Totals adjusted for consistency with current scorekeeping conventions.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I want to commend the managers of the bill, the senior Senator from Alaska, Senator STEVENS, and the senior Senator from Hawaii, Senator INOUE, for their thoughtful work. I particularly want to thank the managers for their inclusion of a requirement in the conference report for a Department of Defense report on the troublesome security situation in the Taiwan Strait. I know that both Senator STEVENS and Senator INOUE share my concern about stability in the Taiwan Strait.

This report, requested on or before February 1, 1999, is very timely. The twentieth anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act is in April 1999. Does the senior Senator from Alaska agree that one of the principal purposes of this study should be to compare the security situation as it exists now in 1998 with that which existed in 1979, when

Congress originally enacted the Taiwan Relations Act, P.L. 96-8?

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President. My colleague from Alaska is correct. The Committee believes that it is important for Congress to be fully and currently informed on the military balance in the tense Taiwan Strait, as Congress directed in the Taiwan Relations Act. The Committee expects the report to detail recent additions to the offensive military capabilities of the People's Republic of China, as well as new challenges to the deterrent forces of the Republic of China on Taiwan. This report should carefully examine the balance as it exists today, as it may exist in the future, given expected procurement programs, as well as comparing the balance with the situation that existed in 1979, when Congress adopted the Taiwan Relations Act.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President. I would like to thank my friend from Alaska. I also wanted to note that it is important that the report provide a comprehensive analysis of the security balance in the Taiwan Strait. In addition to the traditional force-on-force analysis, I understand that it is the conferees intent that the report evaluate the capability of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to conduct command and control warfare against Taiwan, including the PLA's capability for information dominance, air superiority, naval blockage, and amphibious invasion. This is an area that has not received enough attention in terms of evaluating Taiwan's defensive capabilities.

It is also my understanding that the conferees intend that this report evaluate the degree to which the PLA's modernization programs in the areas of submarine development, ballistic and cruise missile development, special operation forces, electronic warfare and computer virus attack capabilities have altered, or may in the future alter, the security and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President. I would like to add my expression of support in this area to that articulated by the junior Senator from Alaska. I was pleased to work with my colleagues in the conference committee to shape this important provision. I look forward to reviewing this report from the Department of Defense early next year. I, too, believe that it is particularly important to focus on the qualitative balance now in 1998 as compared to that which existed in 1979, when Congress enacted the Taiwan Relations Act, with its Section 3 provisions regarding continued military sales to the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I would like to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished Senator from Alaska, the Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Conference Report accompanying H.R. 4013, the Fiscal Year 1999 Defense Appropriations bill, includes a funding level of \$28 million specifically

for making upgrades to the radars which will support the Navy Theater Wide missile defense system, through a competitive process. The Senate has a long history of supporting this effort by providing funding above the amount requested by the Administration. I concur fully with these additions.

The Navy Theater Wide program is an integral part of the overall architecture of missile defense which is being developed and built by our country today. However, in order to field a Navy Theater Wide system that will be available on the schedule that the Navy is pursuing, we must increase our efforts in the area of radar development. To date, the preponderance of the funds expended for the Navy Theater Wide program have gone toward development of the missile and the kill vehicle. While these are necessary elements of the Navy Theater Wide system, without the upgraded sensors to operate with them, the overall system will be less than fully capable. With the addition of the \$28 million in this bill we are just beginning to make up for lost time. I wish we could have provided even more funds. However, I encourage the Navy and the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization to commence a vigorous effort to develop a radar system that will meet the stringent requirements of the Navy Theater Wide program. I believe the same radar system should also be compatible with meeting other fleet requirements, such as improving its ability to defeat cruise missiles.

Do you agree with my assessment of the situation?

Mr. STEVENS. I thank the Senator from New Jersey. He makes some very important and timely points. I, too, have been very supportive of the Navy Theater Wide program and will work closely with him to ensure that the entire system, including the radar, is developed on schedule. I fully support the conference's decision to provide \$28 million for Radar Improvements Competition in Fiscal Year 1999 and I encourage the Navy to factor the radar development into their overall plan for Navy Theater Wide development and fielding.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I thank the Senator from Alaska for his remarks. I applaud his efforts as Chairman of the Defense Subcommittee on this issue and for his dedication to our armed forces. I thank the chair and yield the floor.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Senator STEVENS and Senator INOUE for their efforts and leadership in putting the Fiscal Year 1999 Department of Defense Appropriations Conference Report together. I would also like to thank my colleagues for their continued support of photonics research and their leadership in providing continued funding for one of our most critical technologies. The vital nature of this photonics effort has been highlighted in recent Critical Technologies Reports to Congress.

Mr. President, I would like to clarify one point in the Conference Report before us, and to confirm the legislative intent of the Committee. I would like to ask the senator from Alaska, Senator STEVENS, and the Senator from Hawaii, Senator INOUE, if the \$2.5 million provided for photonics research in the RDT&E/Army section was intended to be provided to the Photonics Research Center which was funded in the Fiscal Year 1996 Defense Appropriations Bill?

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, first I would like to thank the Senator from Massachusetts and say that I am well aware of the critical role photonics is playing in our national security. I concur that the funding in question was intended to go to the Photonics Research Center that was funded in the FY 1996 DOD Appropriations Bill.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I, too, would like to thank the Senator from Massachusetts for his remarks. I have also supported funding for photonics research in the past. In the future, most of our weapons systems will depend on photonics for their effectiveness. If we are to maintain our competitive advantage, we must maintain an advantage in photonics research. I would also agree with the Senator from Alaska and his explanation of our Committee's legislative intent in providing additional funding for the Photonics Research Center.

Mr. KENNEDY. I would again like to thank my colleagues for their leadership on this vital technology and for clarifying the congressional intent of this funding.

ADVANCED MATERIALS INTELLIGENT PROCESSING CENTER

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise today to engage in a short colloquy with the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the senior Senator from Alaska, Senator STEVENS.

Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, the conference report included \$3 million in the Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Navy account of your Fiscal Year 1999 Department of Defense Appropriations bill for continued funding of the Advanced Materials Intelligent Processing Center in Evanston, Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I greatly appreciate the support that the subcommittee provides for this project. I would like to confirm that the intent of the conferees was to provide this additional \$3 million to continue the activities of the Center in affiliation with the Naval Air Warfare Center in Lexington Park, Maryland, as well as other industrial and governmental partners. This continuation funding will allow the Center first to complete a state-of-the-art resin transfer molding system with all required equipment functionality, monitoring, and intelligent supervisory control, and then to transfer it to the Center's industrial and governmental partners for prove out in a production environment.

Mr. STEVENS. I thank the senior Senator from Illinois for her interest in

this matter. I would like to confirm that the intent of our committee's action was as she stated.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. I thank the Senator from Alaska for his clarification on this matter, and for his assistance on this project. I also thank Senator INOUE of the subcommittee for his support of this project. I would also like to say to my colleagues that I am confident the work of the Center can help reduce the cost of our defense systems through the use of faster, cheaper, and better means of processing composite materials for military hardware. These improvements will provide substantial dividends to the American people.

COST REDUCTION PROPOSAL FOR TERFENOL-D

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to engage in a brief colloquy with the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the Senator from Alaska, Mr. STEVENS.

Mr. STEVENS. I am delighted to respond to questions from the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, first, I commend the chairman for all his hard work on this very complex and extremely important bill.

One project that is of continuing interest to me is the cost reduction proposal for Terfenol-D, the smart alloy used in Navy advanced sonar systems. These essential cost reductions will enable significant cost and operational effectiveness enhancements of U.S. Navy surface ship, submarine and torpedo undersea warfighting capability. Furthermore, this program is essential if the U.S. Navy is to have a competitive advantage and not be at a disadvantage compared to the Chinese, Japanese and Russians as they invest in TERFENOL-D manufacturing technology advancements.

As the chairman recalls, funding for this important project was included in the FY 98 Defense Appropriations bill only to be line item vetoed by the President. Due to the importance of the project, funds were included again in the FY 99 bill. However, because of the confusion caused by the line-item veto and the subsequent opinion by the Supreme Court, I would like to clarify with you that the full \$3.0 million appropriated by the Congress in FY 98, line-item vetoed by the President and then nullified by the U.S. Supreme Court, continues to be available for its stated purpose of cost reduction for Terfenol-D. Moreover, it is my understanding that the \$2.0 million currently provided in FY 99 is in addition to the \$3.0 million provided in FY 98 for a total of \$5.0 million over two years for this extremely important cost reduction initiative.

Mr. STEVENS. The Senator's assessment that the 2 years of consecutive funding for this program totals \$5.0 million is correct. It was the intent of the Conferees to provide this level of funding for the successful completion of this important program that will greatly enhance the security of the

United States and the safety of our men and women at sea.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank my distinguished colleague, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, for this important clarification.

SHIP SCRAPPING PROJECT

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to address my colleague, Chairman STEVENS, concerning funding for a ship disposal initiative in the Fiscal Year 1999 Defense Appropriations Act. At my request, funds were provided in the Senate bill for this program and I'm pleased to note that the conference report has preserved the Senate funding level of \$7.5 million. This initiative has been crafted to address the Department of Defense Interagency Ship Scrapping Review Panel's recommendations for a pilot program.

It was my understanding that the \$7.5 million provided under Operation & Maintenance for a ship disposal initiative would be used to implement a demonstration project at the Navy's only two fresh water reserve basins, where more than 300,000 tons of ships slated for scrapping are stored, and that these funds will be distributed evenly between the two sites—the Delaware River and the James River—for the first year of this demonstration project.

Earlier this year, I spoke with Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell and officials of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation regarding their needs as we move ahead on revitalizing the Philadelphia Navy Shipyard. A key element of their plan is to demonstrate a ship scrapping project that assures responsible environmental health and safety management while reducing government costs for managing decommissioned ships.

Mr. STEVENS. The Senator from Pennsylvania is correct that the Senate included funding for this program at his request. The Committee and conferees were silent on the specific purpose of the program. I will add, though, that I support the intent of the Senator.

PROTECTING OUR STRATEGIC AIRLIFT

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I support the defense appropriations conference report, but I would like to briefly comment on one issue—strategic airlift.

As we have learned in places like Kenya, Tanzania, Iraq, and Bosnia, the end of the Cold War has not brought stability to the world. That instability continually threatens our national security interests and has placed a high demand on our military assets.

Primary among those assets is strategic airlift. Using our military requires getting troops and equipment and weapons to strategic locations. I am very concerned that we are taking some short-cuts in this bill that directly impact that vital national security capability. In particular, I am concerned that the Senate did not fully fund the President's request for C-5 avionics modernization. Instead, this Conference Report provides only \$33.7

million of \$47.9 million dollars necessary to increase C-5 safety and reliability. While \$33.7 million is a lot of money, we need to do more.

The \$14.2 million cut delays installation of the Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) by a full-year. Other important modifications are also delayed, including the following: Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning System, Global Air Traffic Management, Flight Instrument and Engine Display System, and Automatic Flight Controls. These are the systems that navigate the plane and protect it against various forms of collision. As the skies continue to become more crowded, and as we rely on C-5s to provide airlift in all types of weather and over all kinds of terrain up-to-date avionics are critical.

The C-5 has served the nation well in all of our military actions overseas from the Yom Kippur War to current operations in Bosnia and Iraq. In Desert Storm, the C-5 delivered over 38 percent of all America's airlift. It is an absolutely essential part of the Air Force's airlift capacity. A capacity that is more critical than ever as we move to an Expeditionary Aerospace Force.

I want to point out here that it is not just me who believes the C-5 is a critical national defense priority. It is one of the Air Force's top priorities. Even now, I know that the Air Force is attempting to cobble together the needed \$14.2 million from other accounts. The Air Force should not be put in this position. We should give them the money.

We have known for some time that the C-5 needs some modernization work. The Air Force is undertaking a study to determine how best to preserve and protect our strategic airlift. That larger study will look at many things—re-engineing the C-5, buying more C-17s, refitting existing commercial airframes, exploring spare parts shortages and maintenance delays—but it will not change the need to modernize the avionics in the short-term. The Air Force is committed to this modernization and deserves our support.

Quite simply, the airlift of the United States military rests in the back of the C-5. In a world where threats appear in every corner of the globe, we cannot afford to shortchange the strategic airlift that protects our national security.

When we look at addressing readiness shortfalls in the military in a supplemental appropriations bill this year, I hope my colleagues will consider the need to restore \$14.2 million to the C-5 Avionics Modernization accounts. The Air Force should know that we share its commitment to strategic airlift.

Mr. STEVENS. Does the Senator yield back the balance of his time?

Mr. INOUE. I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has been yielded back.

HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now vote on the conference report accompanying H.R. 6.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) would vote "aye."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ASHCROFT). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 290 Leg.]

YEAS—96

Abraham	Enzi	Lieberman
Akaka	Faircloth	Lott
Allard	Feingold	Lugar
Ashcroft	Feinstein	Mack
Baucus	Ford	McCain
Bennett	Frist	McConnell
Biden	Glenn	Mikulski
Bingaman	Gorton	Moynihan
Bond	Graham	Murkowski
Boxer	Gramm	Murray
Breaux	Grams	Nickles
Brownback	Grassley	Reed
Bryan	Gregg	Reid
Bumpers	Harkin	Robb
Burns	Hatch	Roberts
Byrd	Helms	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hutchinson	Roth
Chafee	Hutchison	Santorum
Cleland	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Coats	Inouye	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Collins	Johnson	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kempthorne	Snowe
Coverdell	Kennedy	Specter
Craig	Kerrey	Stevens
D'Amato	Kerry	Thomas
Daschle	Kohl	Thompson
DeWine	Kyl	Thurmond
Dodd	Landrieu	Torricelli
Domenici	Lautenberg	Warner
Dorgan	Leahy	Wellstone
Durbin	Levin	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Hagel
Hollings
Moseley-Braun
Sessions

The conference report was agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now vote on adoption of the conference report accompanying H.R. 4103.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask for the yeas and nays.